



# NEWS RELEASE

## WYOMING DISTRICT OFFICE

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### **Meadow Maid Foods, LLC Home-Based Business Advocate of the Year 2006**

**Yoder** – The Wyoming District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named Meadow Maid Foods, Mike and Cindy Ridenour of Yoder, WY, Home-Based Business Advocate of the Year 2006. This award will be presented to them on May 10, 2006 at the Cottonwood Country Club in Torrington and will start at 11:30am -1:00pm. First Lady Freudenthal will be in attendance and is receiving an award during this time.

This award is presented to an individual/organization that has engaged in entrepreneurial training, policy development efforts, or financial or business planning specifically tailored for home-based businesses; has demonstrated interest in home-based business and has measurable accomplishments in advancing home-based businesses, such as adoption of public policy or expansion of a program.

When the Ridenours first decided to start a business, they consulted with Arlene Soto of the WY Small Business Development Center who in turn put them in touch with Wyoming Business Council, Ted Craig, who helped them find ideas as to where to market their products.

Meadow Maid Foods sells grass-fed beef, "love me tender" pork and all-natural vegetables. All of the foods sold by Meadow Maid Foods are raised in Yoder, WY, at the Ridenour Ranch. Maximum nutritional benefits can only be realized from grass-fed beef when animals spend their entire lives eating only forages. The cattle fertilize the pastures as they graze. No herbicides, pesticides, or chemical fertilizers are used on pastures, and the cattle are not treated with insecticides. The cattle grow at their own rate and no added growth hormones are used. Their pigs are purchased as weanlings from local farmers and live outside, have access to forages and are fed lots of garden scraps. The pigs are also fed corn, soybeans and vitamins to maintain healthy growth. They also sell all-natural vegetables and do not use synthetic pesticides, herbicides, fungicides or fertilizers.

The Ridenours still find time to volunteer approximately 10 hours of work per month to the community. They work with the underprivileged, give food to the needy and help stock food banks. They are also members of the Chamber in Torrington and are current members of the Wyoming First Program.

The President of the United States recognizes contributions of the small business community to the American economy and society by proclamation each year.

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*For more information about SBA's programs for small businesses, call 307-261-6500 or TDY 307-261-6527 or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at [www.sba.gov/wy](http://www.sba.gov/wy).*

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